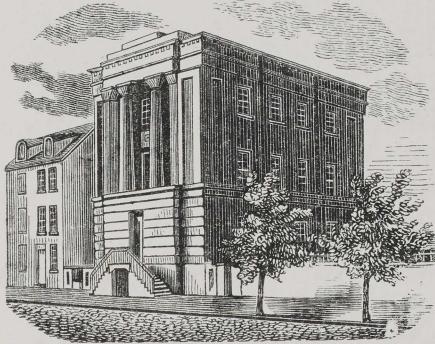


AN ESSAY ON  
*Uterine Hemorrhage*

DISPECTFULLY SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF THE



HOMOEOPATHIC MEDICAL COLLEGE  
OF PENNSYLVANIA,

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Fifty-seven.

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The life of a physician,  
is truly one of great responsibility.  
Therefore, in order that he may  
be enabled to meet the demands,  
that will be continually pressing upon <sup>him</sup>;  
and discharge them in such a  
way, as not only to give satisfaction  
to those, whose right it is to claim  
it of him, but also to himself;  
it is needful, that he be endowed  
with knowledge, capable of thought, under  
all circumstances, and prompt in acting.

But where, or in what disease,  
will these requirements be called more  
in requisition, than in the different  
forms of MATERINE HEMORRHAGE.

A knowledge of the anatomy and  
character of the uterus, the causes  
occasioning hemorrhage of, and the  
action of remedies upon it are need-  
ful, that he may base thereon his  
thoughts, and bring into action, those  
means, by which he may be enabled to  
check that flow, which would otherwise  
only cease with the cessation of life.

The uterus, the home of the  
foetus, when without its occupant,  
is situated in the center of the  
pelvis, above the vagina, and between  
the bladder, and rectum,

It is a hollow, pear shaped organ; somewhat flattened anteriorly, and is about three inches in length, two in breadth, at its widest portion, and one in thickness.

For description, it has been divided into three portions, body, fundus, and neck. The superior third is termed the fundus, the middle, the body and the inferior third or constricted portion the cervix or neck while its opening is termed the os uteri or ostium.

It is composed of several membrane externally, of mucous sanguineous membrane internally while its middle coat or substance of gray muscular tissue there are entering into its formation blood vessels, nerves and absorbents.

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It is supplied with blood from the uterine and spermatic arteries. The nerves are distributed to it from the sacral plexus of the cerebro-spinal system and from the great sympathetic.

It remains seemingly dormant, until parturition, when it is roused into action, and exhales a fluid manthly, preparatory to, or necessary for conception.

But what a change takes place in it, after receiving that precious being which it is to lodge, nourish and finally expel. It changes its situation, for instead of remaining in the pelvis, it rises, and through concessions of its superiority, and becomes an abdominal viscus. It also changes in size; whereas it was but three inches in length, it now increases to

twelve or thirteen, and otherwise in proportion  
that structure, about which there  
has been so much dispute, now  
becomes one of the most powerful  
muscles of the body: Whereas it was  
hard and consistent, now it becomes  
loose, spongy and extensible.

The vessels, nerves, and absorbents,  
also increase in proportion.  
Having had but little sensibility,  
it now becomes exceedingly sensitive.  
And the veins which were hardly  
traceable, now become the source of  
dangerous hemorrhage, owing to the  
separation of the placenta and mem-  
brana decidua, from their fatal orifices  
Hemorrhage may occur at any  
time during the period of gestation

during parturition, and even after labor has been completed, until there is a firm and permanent contraction of the uterus secured.

In treating of uterine hemorrhages I shall class them into four different classes, or kinds, on account of the different causes occasioning and the time of their occurrence, namely; accidental; unavoidable; hemorrhage before the effusion of the placenta; and hemorrhage after its effusion.

Accidental hemorrhage. This is owing to a partial separation of the placenta or membranes from the body or fundus of the uterus.

It is occasioned by injuries, such as, blows; shocks; and strains; also

by an inordinate action of the uterus, and by disease of the placenta or veins,

The blood generally escapes externally, but not always. It may be retained by the adhesions of the membranes, by the formation of coagulum, and by the separation of the center of the placenta while the circumference remains adherent.

If the blood be retained, there will be dull pain, and a feeling of weight and tension, at the front; also enlargement of the uterus with the general symptoms of hemorrhage; such as paleness of the face, coldness of the extremities, ringing in the ears; dimness of vision

and fainting; when fainting occurs, the hemorrhage ceases, until the patient is aroused, when it again recurs; then again she faints, thus alternating, unless arrested, till death supervenes.

To diagnose it from unavoidable hemorrhage, we must firstly take into consideration the causes, occasioning them; Accidental hemorrhage being generally caused by injuries; while unavoidable is caused by the dilatation of the os uteri or the expansion of the cervix; Secondly, the time of its occurrence.

Accidental hemorrhage may occur at any period, but is checked by contractions of the uterus, while unavoidable

ble, only occurs during the last few weeks of gestation, and is increased by contractions. Firstly, if by an examination of her vagina, the placenta be found situated over the os, or on the neck; it is a case of unavoidable hemorrhage; but finding no placenta, but simple membranes covering the parts, it is a case of accidental hemorrhage.

Thus having learned the nature of the case; the treatment, should be chosen accordingly. If the patient has not reached her full term, we should try to arrest the hemorrhage and prevent miscarriage. Therefore rest in the horizontal posture, is all important and should be strictly enjoined, till hemorrhage has ceased; also such

medicines given, as the symptoms  
and cause, demands. The principal  
ones, being, Anise, Bell. Ipecac, Sabina  
and China. The Ammon has been re-  
commended by some, but taking into  
consideration the distensibility of the  
organ and that the more it is distended  
the greater the flow, and the less  
power it has of contracting; I consider  
it a dangerous remedy, and would  
not use it after the third month, ex-  
cept in unavoidable hemorrhage.

But if the hemorrhage continue  
profuse, <sup>or if she</sup> has reached her full time, the  
membranes should be ruptured, and  
such means used as will induce contraction.  
If these fail we should turn the child  
and deliver, thus terminating the labor.

Unavoidable hemorrhage This is owing  
to the attachment of the placenta over  
the ~~as~~<sup>on</sup> cervix; therefore as labor cannot  
take place without a partial separation  
of the placenta, there must of neces-  
sity be more or less hemorrhage.

It does not generally take place  
before the last two or three weeks of  
gestation, but it may occur during  
the last two months; if so, it is owing  
to the enlargement of the cervix.

It comes on suddenly, without  
warning, and is more or less profuse accord-  
ing to the separation of the placenta.

If it takes place previous to the com-  
mencement of labor, there will be sud-  
den gushes of blood without any  
apparent cause, then it will subside

then again recur, thus recurring and subsiding at uncertain intervals until labor commences, when it will be poured forth at every contraction unless some means are employed to prevent it.

If the hemorrhage takes place before the period of labor, such means should be used as will check and prevent its recurrence. Rest in the horizontal posture and diet are the most essential and will generally control it, with the use of arnica or sabina or such medicines as the symptoms require, until labor commences.

But if hemorrhage be profuse or labor commenced; an examination should be made in order to deter-

mine the situation of the placenta  
and the dilatability of the os uteri.

If the placenta be not situated over  
the os, but on one side of the cervix,  
the membranes should be ruptured,  
and treated as if accidental; for  
the rupture of the membranes will  
cause the evacuation of the waters;  
therefore lessening the volume of the  
uterus, and exciting it to contraction,  
thus pressing the head upon the bleed-  
ing surface, and causing the cesar-  
ean section of the flow.

But if the placenta be situated  
over the os, and the os be dilated  
or dilatable, the delivery should be  
proceeded with without delay for the safe-  
ty, both of mother and child, depend-

upon a careful and speedy delivery.

The position of the child should be ascertained if possible; then the patient placed in the most favorable position, which will be on the left side with the knees drawn up towards the abdomen, and there restrained by the assistants. After preparing that hand the palm of which, will most readily pass over the abdomen of the child; the fingers should be contracted in the shape of a cone, and slowly insinuated through the vagina, then through the os, separating the placenta from one side, and after dividing the membranes they should be ruptured and the hand passed within and up over the abdomen of the child, until the feet are

gained; then they should be brought down, thus causing the child to revolve on its own axis.

After the feet have been brought into the vagina, causing the breech to press upon the bleeding surfaces; but little traction should be used, unless hemorrhage continue profusely; but friction and slight pressure should be made over the uterine humor, to excite it to contraction only, or Secale, might be used with advantage, in such a case.

But should the os not be dilated, neither dilatable, which is most apt to be the case in the early stage of labor, even while profuse hemorrhage, is transpiring, the only alternative

is, to use such remedies as will check the flow untill dilatation takes place, or the os becomes dilatable, Her delivery under such circumstances would not only be extremely difficult, but exceedingly dangerous, The chief dependence in such a case, will be on the use of the tampon, untill the os is dilated But at the same time such facilitative should be used as the occasion will allow, such as rest in the recumbent posture, cold application to the frants, freedom from all excitement ~~and~~ if the patient be thirsty cold water should be given, also such medicines, as the symptoms indicate.

After the tampon has been introduced the dilatation of the os, should be diagnosticated, by the frequency and character of the pains, for the removal of the plug to examine as to its state, would give rise to a recurrence of the hemorrhage.

But when dilatation <sup>has taken place</sup> the tampon should be removed and delivery accomplished.

Well would it be for the patient if when delivery was accomplished hemorrhage would cease, or not occur.

But on the contrary, it is far more frequent after the expulsion of the child than before.

Hemorrhage before the separation of the placenta; This is owing to one of four

causes, or shall more or less combined, namely, atony of the uterus, adhesions of the placenta, irregular contractions of the uterus, and rupture of the placenta. But the treatment will be most ly indicated, by the state of the uterus.

If there be atony of the uterus, the first thing to be done, will be to rouse it to action, which may often be accomplished, by friction on the abdomen, or by grasping the uterine tumor, and producing a kneading action, with the fingers, but if that does not cause it to contract, cold water should be dashed on the abdomen, or the hand or cloths wet in ice water and placed thereon, while at the same time pressure

and friction be produced, although those means generally produce contraction they may sometimes fail; if so, the hand should be introduced within the uterus and gentle friction produced. Siccile or Pulsatilla should be used in such a condition, also calo<sup>water</sup> drunk if anything.

But when there are contractions of the uterus and the placenta be not expelled, the inference will be, that the placenta is attached, or that there are irregular contractions of the uterus.

In such a case, the hand should be prepared and carefully frayed within the uterus, which will not be easily accomplished especially if

there be irregular contractions, but by perseverance the resistance will be overcome. Having overcome the resistance and gained the placenta, it <sup>should</sup> be separated by carefully insinuating the fingers between it and the uterus. The hand should <sup>be</sup> scraped over the whole of the maternal surface, that no part may remain adherent; when it may be withdrawn or permitted to be expelled.

Although labor may have terminated favorably, the placenta expelled and the uterus contracted, there <sup>may</sup> get be hemorrhage, even sufficient to cause the death of the patient.

Hemorrhage after the expulsion of the placenta; This is most often

occurs from atony of the uterus, owing  
to the sudden emptying of its contents,  
or long and difficult labor.

Then again it may occur, when  
there are strong contractions; being  
prevented from wholly closing the  
cavity by there remaining attached  
parts of the placenta and membrane  
or clots of blood.

It is at this period that concealed  
hemorrhage most often occurs; and  
is the most dangerous; for there  
being still an oozing of blood  
a coagulum may form at the os;  
thus preventing its flow externally;  
and as the uterus is more easily  
of dilatation at this period, it dilates;  
thus opening the bleeding vessels,

increasing the flow, and consequently  
the administration.

The physician at this period should  
watch carefully the symptoms and  
if his business call him away he should  
put the attendants on their guard  
lest otherwise, the deceitfulness of  
this kind of hemorrhage, might  
cause them not to perceive the danger  
until the alarming symptoms aroused  
them to action; when it might  
be so late: for without promptness  
in the application of the right  
means, the patient would expire.

The symptoms of hemorrhage,<sup>are</sup>  
faintness of the countenance; flagging  
of the pulse; coldness of the extremities;  
dyspnoea; vomiting; ringing in the

earz, or morbid accutenes of herring; dimness of vision; and fainting. But these may all occur without hemorrhage; therefore we must look further;

If it be external it will be readily perceived; if internal the uterus will be found enlarged, soft and fluctuating; but if by an examination it be found small and firmly contracted, with no blood externally; the cause of the symptomz, must be sought for elsewhere.

The treatment will be nearly the same as that before the expulsion of the placenta; for if there be atony of the uterus, it should be roused into action by the same means; also when there are formations

of ossecula or portions of the placenta and membranes remaining adherent, the hand should be introduced and the uterus enstated if possible; in order that firm contractions may be secured.

But if all the means fail, which have been enumerated, then would I resort to injections; such as ice water or salt water, Iodine has been recommended for an injection, by M. Duperre, of Havana, Cuba. He states, that a half ounce of iodine with an ounce of water injected into the uterus, will secure a permanent contraction of it, and that he has tried or seen it used in over one hundred cases, and it failed not.

fail but once. If so the question arises, does it not act homoeopathically upon that organ, and would not a less quantity produce the same effect?

Galvanic shocks would tend to rouse it to action, but the safety of the patient will depend on the prudent use of those means, which are always at hand.

The safety of the patient will greatly depend on the management after <sup>the</sup> hemorrhage.

She should be kept perfectly quiet and in the horizontal posture; the bandage applied, but no change made in the clothing for many hours; neither should warm slacks or indigestible food be given, but cold water or cold tea, may be given.

at first, and after a few hours, warm tea may be allowed,

The diet should be simple farinaceous articles, for a few days; but animal food, fish and eggs, &c., should be entirely prohibited.

The medicinal means to be used, will depend in a great measure upon the symptoms present; but arnica may be given, to aid nature in reacting, as well as to overcome the effects of injuries to the parts.

If there be great irritability, coffee, or Chamomilla, may be given; also mescup, according as they are indicated.

And if different symptoms arise they should be combated by appropriate remedies.